

Blue Skies and Clean Waters Initiative: Partnering for Pollution Prevention

TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

EPA FUNDING: \$116,312

LENGTH: 2 YRS.

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) will further expand its pollution prevention program and advance regulatory integration through the following initiatives.

- To reduce air emissions from upset and maintenance (UM) events, the Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division and Field Operations Division will provide technical training, establish local industry UM workgroups, and conduct UM Site Assistance Visits (SAVs) to local regulated entities. TNRCC will provide facilities with guidance on UM emissions prevention and reporting, information on forming an emissions prevention team at a facility, an overview of tools for emissions reductions, and case studies.
- To reduce pollution to threatened watersheds, TNRCC will educate stakeholders about using pollution prevention to reduce emissions from both point sources and non-point sources. To achieve this, TNRCC will conduct P2 site assistance visits to facilities within watersheds listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list and will work with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program to conduct a “threatened waters pilot” project. Through the project, the agency will establish a public/private stakeholder workgroup in the threatened watershed to identify constituents of concern, non-point source pollution issues, and P2 opportunities.
- In partnership with the Texas Environmental Service Provider Network, TNRCC will develop a P2 Expert System, an interactive, Web-based planning tool that mirrors one-on-one technical assistance for facilities in specific industries. The tool will include pollution prevention options, case studies, vendor information, and Web links by process or sector to assist companies in preparing an effective pollution prevention plan.
- TNRCC will strive to increase the use of environmental management systems (EMSs) by Texas facilities, increase membership in the Clean Texas and National Performance Track Programs, pilot an EMS-based site assistance visit with a facility in the above programs, and develop regulatory incentives to encourage EMS adoption by regulated entities, state agencies, local governments, and other organizations.
- To reduce ozone-forming emissions and increase energy efficiency, TNRCC will support a statewide, innovative clean air partnership to reduce NO_x emissions and awareness of emerging technologies. An additional objective will be increased public education and individual actions related to transportation choices, cleaner vehicles, traffic congestion, air pollution, and public health. To accomplish this, the grantee will support a statewide Clean Texas Air Roundtable, integrate clean air technology information into TNRCC outreach, and produce a short P2/energy efficiency video.